

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Derryl Acosta (858) 688-9163 (cell) (858) 514-3211 (desk)

YOUTH HAVE THEIR DAY IN COURT Aaron Price Fellows to Serve as Judge and Jury

No matter how convincing the defense is in the case of the People v. James Notsobright, everyone in the courtroom is destined to land behind bars, including the judge. To witness this twist of justice, attend Juvenile Justice Day on April 19 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Juvenile Court, 2901 Meadow Lark Dr. in San Diego.

"This is a great opportunity for us to show youth how rewarding it is to work in the juvenile justice system," said Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins. "We hope this experience will encourage more to enter the profession."

Juvenile Justice Day is a partnership between Price Charities, Juvenile Court and the Probation Department. It gives about 30 local high school sophomores in the Aaron Price Fellow Program hands-on experience in the juvenile justice system. Aaron Price Fellows are selected from local high schools to receive, over four years, an up-close look at government, business, and culture.

In Juvenile Court, students are grouped with deputy public defenders, deputy district attorneys, a deputy sheriff and Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Susan Huguenor. After some legal mentoring, the students carry out the trial of James Notsobright, accused of bringing a weapon to school. At the end of the trial, regardless of the court's ruling, everyone is escorted to Juvenile Hall.

Once inside Juvenile Hall, the students are treated like detainees, they witness a mock fight and then they are locked in rooms to feel what it's like to lose their freedom. The concluding experience is eating lunch prepared for the real detainees in the dayroom.

Editor's note: The mock trial is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. with the tour of Juvenile Hall immediately following. Youth will be available for interviews and the entire day may be photographed.